FROM: SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:

SUBJECT: BOS DISTRICT 4: Approve the Fourth District American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Infrastructure project fund allocation to the proposed Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) administered project and direct the Executive Office to initiate necessary agreements with the CVWD, District 4. [$3,100,000 Total Cost - 100% American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Fourth District ARPA infrastructure project outlined below;
2. Direct the Executive Office to initiate work on the ARPA infrastructure project agreement with CVWD; and
3. Authorize the Executive Office to coordinate with CVWD related to ARPA infrastructure eligibility submittals.

ACTION: Policy

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: May 17, 2022
xc: BOS Dist. 4, E.O.
BACKGROUND:

Summary

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law a $1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill also known as the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The intent of the bill is to accelerate the United States recovery from the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA includes $350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds) for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. These ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds can be utilized for four categories of eligible uses:

a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

b) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers.

c) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and

d) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

On April 27, 2021, the Executive Office presented to the Board of Supervisors preliminary ARPA allocations to the following categories: Infrastructure, Housing & Homelessness, Economic Recovery, County Departments Response, Non-Profit Assistance and Revenue Backfill. On October 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a revised funding allocation after the U.S. Treasury released the ARPA interim funding guidelines. The revised allocation included a new category for Child Care. The funding allocation obligates funds to 7 categories: Infrastructure, Housing & Homelessness, Economic Recovery, County Departments Response, Non-Profit Assistance, Child Care and Revenue Backfill.

On February 8, 2022, the board approved establishing the ARPA infrastructure funding category in the amount of $82 million. This amount dedicated $75 million to water and sewer
infrastructure projects, distributed $15 million per district and the remaining $7 million was allocated to the Broadband affordability program.

The following project has been recommended for ARPA infrastructure funding by the Fourth District. The project was determined to be in compliance with ARPA funding objectives and US Treasury eligibility criteria by the Executive Office and the Unincorporated Communities Initiative team. CVWD will administer, construct, and maintain the following infrastructure project, which will be completed on or before December of 2026, utilizing the proposed ARPA Infrastructure funding:

1. Mecca Lift Station 55-11 Capacity Upgrade Project – ($3,100,000 ARPA Infrastructure Funds)
   - This $6,200,000 CVWD project will replace and upgrade the existing sewer lift station located at 66-100 Hammond Rd. The existing lift station is 30 years old and has reached maximum sewer capacity. The proposed project will expand the lift station capacity to accommodate existing and future sewer needs for the community of Mecca and the surrounding service area.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**
The proposed infrastructure project supports necessary sewer services to disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are in need. The new lift station will improve the quality of life for these disadvantaged communities, promote economic recovery, and promote reductions in the likelihood of health and environmental impacts from an old and undersized sewer system.